

DRAFT

January 29, 2004

California High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Forum on California's High Speed Rail service - comments

To Whom It May Concern:

The Transportation and Traffic Division within the City of Sunnyvale attended the forum of California's High Speed Rail service on January 29, 2004 and has the following comments/questions:

1. To what extent were conventional "off the shelf" fast train technologies (120-150 MPH) such as the Acela or the many fast trains in use in Europe considered? Wouldn't an incremental step to conventional fast trains make more sense from the standpoints of financial sustainability and implementation before pursuing a 200 MPH + high speed rail system?
2. How would the operating finances of the proposed high speed rail system compare to the existing Northeast Corridor operation? What level of subsidy is envisioned for California high speed rail?
3. Communities along the Peninsula are already subject to considerable train noise and other disruptions from Caltrain. How will noise from high speed rail be mitigated on communities like Sunnyvale?
4. What are the selling points to a community like Sunnyvale that will realize construction disruption, noise and increased government bond indebtedness, but little direct travel benefit?

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the forum. Please contact me with any questions or comments. I can be reached at (408) 730-7330 or jwitthaus@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Jack Witthaus
Transportation and Traffic Manager